



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
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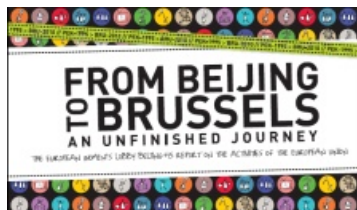
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Report



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Lobby

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to organisations in all 27 EU member states and the three candidate countries, as well as to 21 European-wide bodies, representing a total of more than 2500 organisations.

Maternity rights: European Parliament votes for more equality between women and men and a more sustainable future!

Posted on 20 October 2010



[Brussels, 20 October 2010] The European Parliament today by a large majority passed a Resolution in favour of substantially increasing European minimum standards for maternity and paternity leave provisions. In what supporters are lauding a great victory for the women and men living in Europe, the Parliament approved an increase of maternity leave provisions from 14 weeks to 20 weeks and the introduction of two weeks leave for new fathers, both fully paid.

'This is an incredibly important victory for parents, both mothers and fathers, as it will for the first time shift the costs of maternity from individual women to society as a whole', says Brigitte Triems, President of the European Women's Lobby. 'It is also a sign that our representatives in the European Parliament take progress towards equality between women and men and the future of our societies seriously. We welcome the commitment in particular of those MEPs who championed the text, but also of the Parliament as a whole, (...)

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Magazine



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EU fundamental rights and economic sustainability should not be hijacked by UK business interests, says European Women's Lobby

Posted on 18 October 2010



[Brussels, 18 October 2010] In the run up to the European Parliament vote on the proposed revision of the so-called 'Maternity Leave Directive', UK business leaders have been descending en masse on Brussels in an attempt to block legislation designed to protect women's rights and economic independence throughout the 27 country block.

If successful, it is the 26 other member states of the EU which will have to pay the price, gender equality associations are warning.

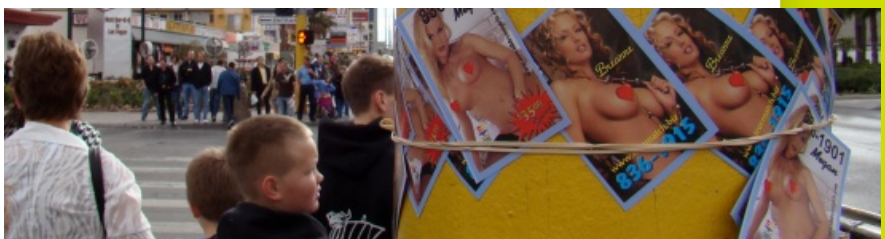
'It is absolutely scandalous that short-sighted business interests from one member state should put at risk the human rights of millions of women throughout the EU, as well as the sustainability of European economies', says Brigitte Triems, President of the European Women's Lobby. 'For UK MEPs to vote to block this legislation would be misguided; for the representatives of the peoples of all the other European countries to follow their lead would be a serious democratic failure.'

Under UK law, women are entitled to 39 weeks (...)

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EWL criticises EU's gender neutral approach to trafficking and calls for focus on demand for prostitution, in line with 1949 UN Convention

Posted on 14 October 2010



[Brussels, 14 October 2010] On 18 October, the EU will celebrate its fourth Anti-Trafficking Day, and launch a two-day conference on trafficking in human beings. The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is concerned about the growing trend in European and international fora to address trafficking in human beings as a homogeneous issue, leading to general actions which fail to address the root causes of the different forms of trafficking.

'79% of trafficking in human beings is for sexual exploitation, and more than 80% of these victims are women. How come the EU and its member states do not want to face this reality?' asks EWL President Brigitte Triems. 'To concretely tackle the phenomenon of trafficking, we need to recognise its different facets and acknowledge the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation. Otherwise, the policies of the EU and its member states are by essence incomplete and inefficient'. The EWL is calling for the EU to focus on prevention by (...)

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EWL Statement of Concern on Expulsion of Roma from France (October 2010)

Posted on 12 October 2010



The European Women's Lobby condemns the expulsion of Roma from France and calls for more European and national actions to ensure that the fundamental rights of Romani women, men and children living in Europe are fully respected. The EWL welcomes in this regard the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 9 September as well as the action by the European Commission (EC) requesting France to fully transpose the Directive on free movement, but regrets the EC decision not to pursue France with legal proceedings for discriminating against Roma.

Download the full Statement here:

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New EU Strategy for Gender Equality: Some Initial Comments (September 2010)

Posted on 5 October 2010



The European Commission on 21 September 2010 released its five year Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015 to follow-up on the Roadmap 2006-2010. The EWL has welcomed this new document, while at the same time is eager to ensure that the political messages of the Strategy will be transformed into concrete and binding measures and legislation which go beyond the Women's Charter launched by the Commission in March this year.

Positive novel elements outlined by the Strategy are:

The holding of an annual top-level Gender Equality Dialogue amongst key stakeholders; the EWL stresses the importance of the presence of key women's organisations at such fora;

The establishment of an annual European Equal Pay Day;

Some new measures in relation to particular areas such as women and fisheries or women's entrepreneurship.

The EWL makes the following recommendations in relation to the implementation of the Strategy:

Many of the points in the document remain vague and will (...)

28 female Heads of State and Government currently in office worldwide

Posted on 28 September 2010



The Worldwide Guide to Women in Leadership has published an overview of Female Heads of State and Government Currently in Office. While there are 192 States recognised by the United Nations and many countries have a Head of State and a Head of Government, there are only 28 women holding such positions worldwide, and two of these are leaders of self-governing external territories rather than independent States. Eight such women are from EU Member States. Only three women sit in the European Council, the leaders of Germany, Lithuania and Slovakia.

See the full list here.

Greens hit out at 'lack of women' in new EU diplomatic corps

Parliament Magazine, 16 September 2010

Posted on 17 September 2010



By Martin Banks

Parliament's Green group has accused EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton of "reneging" on her pledge to recruit more women into the EU diplomatic corps.

Ashton announced the first, and most senior, batch of appointments on Wednesday.

They include 28 heads of EU delegations in various parts of the world, only six of whom are women.

However, more appointments are to follow in the coming weeks and a source close to Ashton said that while the aim was to recruit the "brightest and best", she was equally keen to see more women in the new service.

Even so, the relatively few women in the first tranche of appointments brought an incensed response from the Greens group which has campaigned for more women and eastern Europeans to be appointed.

The attack comes as MEPs are set to decide which of the 28 delegation heads will be

invited to appear before them in the coming weeks.

Franziska Brantner, foreign affairs co-spokesperson of the Greens/EFA group, said, "The (...)

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The GEAR Campaign Enthusiastically Welcomes the New Under-Secretary-General, Michelle Bachelet, Former Chilean President

The EWL is an active member of the global Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign

Posted on 16 September 2010



PRESS RELEASE

(September 14, 2010) The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign is thrilled that the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon has chosen Michelle Bachelet as the new Under-Secretary-General (USG) of UN Women. This appointment is essential to the effectiveness of the new entity and the campaign is pleased that the UN SG has selected a qualified and strong leader for this high level UN position that will envision and work for the future of women's rights and advocate for women worldwide.

"Michelle Bachelet is a top notch choice and has long been one of GEAR's dream candidates. An effective leader of great integrity, Bachelet has demonstrated strong commitment to women's empowerment and the ability to shape gender equality policies in a variety of areas. She also has the stature to mobilize the resources crucial to make UN Women a success," stated Charlotte Bunch, Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University and a founding member of (...)

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EC releases new data on women and men in decision-making

Posted on 8 September 2010



Women and men in decision-making: highlights (third quarter 2010) 23/08/2010

An update of the European Commission's database on women and men in decision-making has recently been completed and includes:

A quarterly update of data on political decision-making at European and national level and also at regional level for those regions where there have been elections. Data were collected in the first three weeks of July 2010 and reflect changes since the last update in mid-May.

An annual update of information on key decision-makers in the following types of organisation: Central banks, Supreme audit

organisations, Courts (supreme courts, administrative courts, constitutional courts, public prosecutors, European courts), European administration (European community agencies, European committees, EU institutions), European financial institutions, European NGOs. Data were collected at various times between May and July.

In the political arena, selected developments in terms of the (...)

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Possible Future EU Strategy to Combat Violence against Women

EWL Contribution to EC Consultation

Posted on 27 July 2010



[Brussels, 27 July 2010] The EWL's Centre on Violence has completed and published its Contribution to the EC Consultation on a possible future EU Strategy to combat violence against women (VAW) initiated by EC Directorate General Justice, Freedom and Security. The Contribution covers the main points of the EWL's position and demands in the context of male violence against women; it highlight the structural character of VAW, rooted in inequality between women and men, the need to focus on all forms of violence against women and makes recommendations, which we hope the EC will find useful in their future work. The structure of the text follows the questions asked by the EC in its consultation questionnaire. We have taken into consideration preliminary discussions/contacts with our member EDF

and with other NGOs, such as ILGA, which were helpful in addressing specific concerns, such as that of vulnerable groups of women and girls victims of violence.

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